

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 05473 121008Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 5473

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LIMDIS

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TAGS MILI TW US

SUBJECT: COMBINED AIR DEFENSE EXERCISE

REF: STATE 191496

1. I ENTIRELY CONCUR IN DESIRABILITY OF A SLOW BUT STEADY REDUCTION IN FREQUENCY OF US EXERCISE INVOLVEMENT WITH ROC ALONG WITH REDUCTION OF OTHER MILITARY MANIFESTATIONS. HOWEVER, I DON'T ENTIRELY SHARE VIEW THAT TODAY "ROC INTERESTS ARE SERVED BY CONDITIONING TAIWAN TO A "" ZERO LEVEL OF JOINING US/ROC MILITARY EXERCISE ACTIVITY." AS LONG AS THE SECURITY TREATY IS IN EFFECT AND UNTIL THERE IS SOME INDICATION OF WHAT WILL TAKE ITS PLACE, IT SEEMS TO ME DESIRABLE TO CONTINUE A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF MILITARY EXERCISE ACTIVITY REQUIRED TO GIVE THE TREATY CREDIBILITY AND MAINTAIN AT LEAST MINIMUM ROC CONFIDENCE IN ITS OWN SECURITY. OTHERWISE I BELIEVE WE WOULD RISK DESTABILIZING THE POLITICAL SITUATION ON TAIWAN. IT ALSO APPEARS TO ME THAT RESPONSIBLE US MILITARY AUTHORITIES, AS LONG AS THE TREATY IS IN EFFECT, SHOULD MAINTAIN AT LEAST MINIMUM CONNECTION WITH AND CAPACITY TO ASSESS ROC ARMED FORCES.

2. ON ANOTHER MILITARY QUESTION, FOR YOUR INFORMATION I HAVE AGREED TO A LOW-KEY VISIT TO TAIWAN AROUND AUGUST 19 OF PACAF GENERAL LOUIS L. WILSON TO VISIT INSTALLATIONS AND PERSONNEL IN HIS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY ON UNDERSTANDING THAT CONTACTS WILL BE RESTRICTED TO US PERSONNEL, EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO AVOID

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BE RESTRICTED TO US PERSONNEL, EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO AVOID

PUBLICITY, AND VISIT WILL TAKE NO MORE THAN ABOUT THIRTY-
SIX HOURS ON TAIWAN.
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